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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

¶1. Summary: Major Chinese-language Taipei dailies centered their coverage October 14 on President Chen Shui-bian's meeting with DPP politicians Thursday evening to discuss the party's reform plans, and Academic Sinica President Lee Yuan-tseh's remarks before the Legislative Yuan with regard to Taiwan's educational reforms and his feelings toward the DPP government. Both the pro-independence "Liberty Times" and "Taiwan Daily" chose to report the contents of Chen's meeting with the DPP politicians on their front pages. The "Liberty Times" front-page headline said: "[Vice President] Annette Lu Urges [the DPP] to Quickly Push for a Cabinet Reshuffle," while the "Taiwan Daily" ran a banner headline on its front page that read: "Bian [Speaks of] the Kaohsiung KMT Scandal: Willing to Step Down If Found to Be Linked with [the Scandal]. The centrist "China Times," in the meantime, reported on Chen's meeting with the DPP politicians from a different perspective. On its front page, the "China Times" said the DPP's reform movement has intensified factional conflicts within the party. The pro-unification "United Daily News" highlighted on its front and second page Academic Sinica President Lee Yuan-tseh's remarks at the Legislative Yuan Thursday in which he apologized for the failure of 10 years of educational reform and expressed disappointment with the ruling DPP government.

¶2. Several newspapers editorialized on the DPP's possible involvement in some recent scandals, while others focused on China's protests over President Chen's appointment of Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng to attend the upcoming APEC summit in Pusan. A "Liberty Times" editorial discussed China's attempts to manipulate Taiwan's year-end elections by instructing Taiwan businessmen in China not to support the pan-Green camp. A "Taiwan Daily" editorial criticized the "Cross-Straight Peace Promotion Law" initiated by the People First Party, calling it a bill that will surrender Taiwan to China. End summary.

A) "It Is All Too Clear That China Is Attempting to Extend Its Black Hand to Manipulate Taiwan's Elections"

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" [circulation: 600,000] editorialized (10/13):

"This newspaper reported Wednesday that China's Taiwan Affairs Office and its Ministry of Foreign Trade and Cooperation have summoned and met with several major Taiwan businessmen in China over the past two months, warning them not to support the pan-Green camp [in the year-end elections] and `to restrain themselves' when making political donations [to the pan-Green camp]. Chinese officials told these Taiwan investors in China very clearly that the mayoral and magistrate elections scheduled for the end of this year are closely related to 'Taiwan's presidential election' slated for 2008, so they must not support the pan-Green camp in public. In the meantime, Beijing is also gesturing welcomingly to the pan-Blue mayors and magistrates in Taiwan. Taichung Mayor Jason Hu already departed for China and will discuss with Beijing [the plans to] send pandas to Taiwan and to resume charter flights between Hong Kong, Macau and Taichung's Chingchuangkang Airport. All these gestures show that China's black hand has intervened in our country's year-end elections and that China has deliberately sought to act `in favor of' pan-Blue candidates for the elections. China's intention to dominate Taiwan's politics via elections is all too clear. .

"Since democracy operates in a transparent way, it naturally gives China plenty of opportunities to play with the system. But it is mainly because of the awful results caused by the ruling party's opening policy that have turned the Taiwan businessmen in China into a form of leverage in an attempt to influence Taiwan's elections on behalf of China. This newspaper believes that since Taiwan businessmen are shrewd in economic activities, they are not dumb in political planning. They must understand that only when Taiwan maintains

its independent sovereignty and is not annexed by China
can the island be their powerful support. ."

B) "If the Pan-Blue Camp Maneuvers to Pass the `Cross-Straight Peace Promotion Law,' Which Attempts to Surrender [Taiwan] to China, It Will Be Like Another Form of `Coup'"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 100,000] commented in an editorial (10/14):

". The People First Party's (PFP) version of the `Cross-Straight Peace Promotion Law' is aimed at presenting an ideological foundation and an actual implementation procedure and agency for the so-called 'peace progress across the Taiwan Strait.' The principle ideology for this bill is that Taiwan must uphold the '1992 Consensus' and 'one China principle' as the standards for negotiations between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. In order to serve such an end, the bill will shift the powers of negotiations with China and relevant policy making from the government to the so-called 'Special Committee for Cross-Straits Peace Negotiations.'

"Both sides of the Taiwan Strait have not reached any consensus on the '1992 Consensus' and 'one China principle' at all. In China's eyes, there is no such thing as the legitimacy, sovereignty or status of the Republic of China (ROC). For the international community, if Taiwan agrees or even sticks to the 'one China' principle, the one China will naturally be the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Taiwan or the ROC will be automatically categorized as a province or administrative region of the PRC. If that be the case, Taiwan will be annihilated, and the ROC will be annihilated, too. Such a principle [i.e. bill] of surrender and betrayal of one's country is exactly the 'consensus' that the PFP wants all Taiwan people to shoulder, and the 'Cross-Straits Peace Promotion Law' is the means that provides legal foundation for Taiwan people to accept such a 'consensus'. .

"The PFP's 'Cross-Straits Peace Promotion Law' attempts to use the power of legislation to replace the government's administrative power and the power of the Commander-in-Chief and to use lawmakers to replace the government and the nation. It will be like another form of coup if the bill is passed under the maneuvering of the KMT and PFP. ."

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